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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, ADM Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:  
Eternal God, Lord of creation, everything around us points to You. We thank You that even nature reminds us of Your goodness and compels us to stand in awe of Your majesty. We thank You for pleasant reminders that this Senate is a family, and that we have many things to unite us. Teach us to trust You to use us as Your instruments in this challenging world. As Senators labor today, may their faithfulness, commitment, and integrity blend with the music of the spheres to serve Your perfect will. Give them insight and wisdom that they may discern the difference between the temporary and the eternal. We pray this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume debate on S. 925, the State Department authorization bill. During yesterday's session, we were able to dispose of a number of amendments to the measure, and we will continue working aggressively through amendments this morning.

I encourage any Member who does have an amendment to the bill to contact the chairman or the ranking member as soon as possible so we can organize an orderly schedule for the consideration of the amendments. I do ask my colleagues that they bring forward amendments that are relevant to the underlying legislation. Unfortunately, over the course of yesterday afternoon and yesterday evening, a number of nonrelevant issues were mentioned and talked about as possible amendments. It is important that we complete action on this very important bill—really these three very important bills together—after which we will go to the appropriations process.

In order to accomplish that, we need to focus on the bill itself. I ask and make that plea to my colleagues that we stay, through an orderly process, on the bill with relevant amendments.

I am aware of every Senator's right to amend and to bring anything to the floor they would like but out of consideration for an orderly, thoughtful schedule that allows us to continue with the authorization process underway and then proceed to the very important appropriations process, we do need people to be as cooperative as possible with the chairman and ranking member.

We will have rollcall votes throughout the day. Senators will be notified when that first vote is scheduled. It is expected that we will consider and complete action, as I mentioned earlier, on appropriations bills this week. We will initially go to, after completion of the bill that is on the floor, the legislative branch appropriations to be followed by the military construction appropriations bill.

As I said clearly earlier in the week, we will be voting on Friday. So I do want our colleagues to expect rollcall votes tomorrow. Depending on how things go over the course of the morning and the afternoon and this evening, we will have a much better idea as to

whether we will be voting late in the day on Friday or earlier in the day.

Again, I have tried to make it very clear through an orderly process that we can get through the schedule that is set out, which includes these appropriations bills.

There is a lot of work to do this week, and Members should prepare for a busy session today and tomorrow.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting Democratic leader is recognized.

### EVENING AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Mr. REID. Mr. President, while the majority leader is on the floor, I have something that is not directly on point but I wish to say for the entire Senate. I congratulate the majority leader and the Democratic leader. It is so rare that we, as a Senate, are able to get together at a social event. Last night, we were able to have an event where we went to an exhibit at the National Gallery of Art to see paintings by a great western artist, Remington.

I applaud and congratulate the two leaders for bringing this together because so much of what we do is adversarial in nature. It was a tremendous evening last night to be able to have our spouses and to sit down to dinner and listen to some short, but good, speeches and look at great exhibits that were painted almost 100 years ago by this great artist.

I speak for the whole Senate and extend my congratulations to the two leaders for arranging that event last night.

### FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION

Mr. President, through you to the majority leader, we have an amendment about which I have talked with the two managers of the bill that is going to be offered this morning dealing with Mexico. We will do that as

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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